

REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

The specification and drawing figures have been reviewed and are believed to be proper as to form.

A Terminal Disclaimer is enclosed. Accordingly, the non-statutory double patenting rejection should be withdrawn.

The claims have been amended.

Claims 21, 22, and 24 have been canceled responsive to the §101 rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is solicited.

Claims 1, 9, 11, 12 and 17 have also been amended. The amendment is supported by the specification as originally filed. The newly-added feature of "said button information being associated with button image information which is displayed and outputted with a background image" is based on specification page 68, lines 9-11 and page 71, lines 5-7. Also, see Figures 20(b) and 21(b). The newly-added feature concerning said play list information including item information and sub item information is based on originally-filed claim 2, specification page 6, line 25 to page 7, line 3. The new feature of the item information including information indicating a reproduction time of the item and the sub item information including information indicating a reproduction time of the sub item is based on specification page 41, lines 10-16 and page 95, lines 18-21.

New claims 25-27 have been added. These are based on prior claims 14-16.

Claims 21 and 22 were rejected under §112, second paragraph. As these claims have been canceled, the rejection is moot and should be withdrawn.

Substantive Rejections

Claims 1, 3-12, 14-17, 21-22 and 24 were rejected as anticipated by SETOGAWA, EP 0898279.

Applicants note that there are no other substantive rejections other than the anticipation rejection with respect to SETOGAWA.

The claims as amended are believed to be patentable in that they recite the invention as a combination of features both novel and non-obvious over the prior art. The differences between the recitations in the claims and the prior art are explained below.

Firstly, SETOGAWA does not disclose the novel feature of claim 1 such that "said button information includes a plurality of button pages each of which can constitute the button menu and whose display can be changed to each other". More specifically, SETOGAWA merely discloses only one button menu (reference number 1 in Figure 3 of SETOGAWA) which includes the plurality of buttons (reference number 2 in Figure 3 of SETOGAWA).

Thus, SETOGAWA does not disclose the plurality of button pages whose display can be changed to each other at all.

Secondary, SETOGAWA does not disclose another novel feature of claim 1 such that "play list information includes item information for specifying each item which constitutes said content information and sub item information for specifying said button information as a sub item". More specifically, in SETOGAWA, one button menu (reference number 1 in Figure 3 of SETOGAWA) is made of one image data (i.e. sub-picture data).

Thus, in SETOGAWA, the plurality of buttons (reference number 2 in Figure 3 of SETOGAWA) can be displayed on only one fixed background image and cannot be displayed on another background image. On the other hand, in the present invention, because the content information (for example, background image) is reproduced separately and independently from the button information by using the item information and the button information is reproduced separately and independently from the content information (for example, background image) by using the sub item information (see Figures 20(a) and (b)), the plurality of buttons which is included in one button menu can be displayed on each of the plurality of background images.

Furthermore, SETOGAWA only discloses the PGC (Program Chain) which specifies both of video pack (i.e., main picture) and sub-picture pack, and does not disclose "item information" for specifying item (i.e., content information) and "sub item

information" for specifying sub item (i.e., button information) which are separately recorded.

Consequently, SETOGAWA does not disclose the novel features of claim 1.

From the above, it is clear that SETOGAWA does not teach or suggest the present invention. It is noted that the features discussed with respect to claim 1 appear in the remaining independent claims. Accordingly, those independent claims are also patentable.

In that the prior art does not teach or suggest the invention as recited, withdrawal of the anticipation rejection and allowance of all the claims is respectfully requested. Applicants note that the dependent claims are believed to be allowable at least for depending from an allowable claim and therefore their recitations need not be addressed.

Having addressed all of the issues raised in the Official Action, the present amendment is believed to be fully responsive. Applicants appreciate the Examiner having indicated that the Information Disclosure Statement previously filed has been acknowledged and considered.

Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of the same is respectfully requested.

Should there be any remaining outstanding issues, applicants would appreciate that the undersigned attorney be

telephonically contacted so that these issues can be resolved and the case pass to allowance.

Please charge the fee of \$130 for the Terminal Disclaimer filed herewith to our credit card.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX:

The Appendix includes the following item:

- Terminal Disclaimer